

Bank Association of Camilla in Camilla, GA. Over the next several years, Nick was employed as a vice president with the Northeast Florida Farm Credit Service in Jacksonville, FL and also the FLBA of Dawson, before being selected as President of the FLBA of Ahoskie in Ahoskie, NC, in 1979.

In 1982, Nick was employed by the Farm Credit Bank of Columbia, SC, now known as AgFirst Farm Credit Bank. He has served in many capacities including vice president of marketing as well as vice president of legislative and public affairs. In 2001, he was named Distinguished Cooperator of the year by the South Carolina Cooperative Council. He has also served as president of the Friends of Agriculture in South Carolina.

I certainly appreciate the outstanding work Nick has done throughout his distinguished career to promote not only cooperative principles but the vital role that agriculture plays in our everyday lives. I thank his wife, Phyllis, and two daughters, Shonna and Angie, and the entire McNair family for their support of Nick throughout the years. I congratulate Nick on his retirement and thank him sincerely for his many positive contributions to AgFirst and the State of South Carolina.

#### GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5563, the "Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act" or the "GIVE Act." I would like to thank my colleague Congresswoman MCCARTHY for introducing this important legislation, as well as the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, for his leadership in bringing the bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation came to the floor last week as H.R. 2857. It was a good bill then but it now an even better piece of legislation.

The ten amendments that were incorporated into the current bill before this chamber provide: (1) greater integration of funding; (2) strengthens the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, RSVP; and (3) more support for our military families and veterans.

This legislation will make vital strides toward expanding and improving key community service programs, including AmeriCorps, VISTA, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America. The GIVE Act works to ensure that volunteers,

and the organizations that support them, will receive the resources that they need to continue their vital work in our communities.

Today's legislation embodies the altruistic spirit that has made our Nation great. Great numbers of Americans donate their time and their unique skills and gifts to our cities and communities, without any expectation of compensation or material reward. According to a 2005 study, 29 percent of the American public, or about 65.4 million people, had volunteered in the past year.

This legislation engages our youth and fosters a sense of civic duty, which is why I was so pleased to see Section 1202 of this legislation, which gives special consideration to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities. I want to thank Representative MCCARTHY and Representative MILLER for allowing me to add to this great bill. By adding predominately minority community colleges to the list of those to receive special consideration, we help so many more students who have a commitment to service.

Our community colleges are growing as many of our returning veterans, single parents, and seniors desire to make a change in their living circumstances and simply cannot afford traditional higher education. A sense of civic engagement is not fostered only among students at Harvard and Berkeley; it is also found among students at community colleges like Houston Community College and North Harris College. I thank the chairman for recognizing this needed addition and incorporating it into the manager's amendment.

The GIVE Act would:

- (1) increase the number of AmeriCorps volunteers from 75,000 to 100,000 by 2012;
- (2) increase stipends for AmeriCorps volunteers from \$4,725 to \$5,225 by 2012;
- (3) promote recruitment of disadvantaged youth, baby-boomers, and veterans into national and community service opportunities;
- (4) create an AmeriCorps Alumni Reserves Network aimed at tapping into the skills and experience of alumni volunteers, with a particular focus on assisting during emergencies or natural disasters; and
- (5) constructs an Energy Conservation Corps, which will address our Nation's energy and transportation infrastructure needs while providing work and service opportunities.

I am disappointed that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have chosen to be obstructionists to legislation that engages our youth, strengthens disaster and emergency preparedness, and invests in our volunteer and service organizations with appropriate funding. This bipartisan effort needs to be supported.

I am proud to cosponsor legislation that will add service before self to our leaders of tomorrow. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

#### CONGRATULATING IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FOR 150 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 10, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, as a proud original cosponsor of House Resolution 924, a resolution congratulating Iowa State University on its sesquicentennial, I would like to take a moment to express my support for its passage and thank the leadership of the House for bringing it to the floor for consideration.

I am proud to have the opportunity to represent the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, the home of Iowa State University and want to congratulate them on their 150th Anniversary. Iowa State's contributions to the State of Iowa, Nation and world are second-to-none and it deserves to receive special recognition. Established on March 22, 1858, Iowa State University has been a pioneer on many fronts; it has demonstrated leadership on very important issues such as equal education and agriculture. Iconic figures such as George Washington Carver and suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt received their education from this outstanding center of learning.

Widely recognized and respected for its service, Iowa State University has now been a leader in higher education for 150 years. Today, it is regarded as one of the greatest agricultural institutions in the Nation and was one of the first institutions to be designated as a land grant institution. The entire agricultural economy is dependent on the agricultural research carried out by Iowa State University. And, its work in biorenewable energy has contributed to the development of alternative fuel sources important to help America reduce its dependence on foreign energy sources. But agriculture and renewable energy are not the only areas in which Iowa State University excels. Engineering, architecture and computer sciences, to name a few, are other areas of higher learning that attract students from all over the globe to Ames, Iowa.

I would also like to applaud Iowa State University President Gregory Geoffrey, the faculty, staff, students and alumni for continuing the rich tradition of excellence and upholding its superior reputation. On behalf of all Iowans, I want to thank Iowa State University for being a source of pride and for the positive influence it has had on the state of Iowa. Again, I am honored to represent this wonderful university and proud to call myself a Cyclone.